

SMITHSONIAN MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS

VOLUME 76, NUMBER 6

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW EAST INDIAN BIRDS  
OF THE FAMILIES TURDIDAE, SYLVIIDAE,  
PYCNONOTIDAE, AND MUSCICAPIDAE

BY

HARRY C. OBERHOLSER



(PUBLICATION 2721)

CITY OF WASHINGTON  
PUBLISHED BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
JULY 16, 1923

The Lord Baltimore Press  
BALTIMORE, MD., U. S. A.

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW EAST INDIAN BIRDS OF THE  
FAMILIES TURDIDAE, SYLVIIDAE, PYCNONOTIDAE, AND MUSCICAPIDAE

By HARRY C. OBERHOLSER

Further study of the East Indian birds collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott on his various journeys has brought to light the following apparently undescribed forms.

The measurements given are all in millimeters; and the names of colors are from Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature."

TURDIDAE

**COPSYCHUS SAULARIS PROSTHOPELLUS**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Copsychus saularis docilis*, of Nepal, but averaging larger; has usually more black on the fourth rectrix (counting from the outermost); female much darker above and anteriorly below, with also buffy of sides and flanks darker.

*Description*.—Adult male, No. 86140, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Deep Bay, Hong Kong, China, November 12, 1881; P. L. Jouy and Dr. Dale. Upper parts, head, and neck all around, metallic bluish black; tail brownish black, edged with bluish black; posterior lower parts white, the sides tinged with gray and washed with pale buffy; the lower portion of the abdomen, the flanks, and crissum, washed with pale buffy.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 101.5 mm.; tail, 93; exposed culmen, 17.5<sup>1</sup>; tarsus 31.5; middle toe without claw, 18.5.

This is the race inhabiting southeastern China. How far to the south and southwest its range extends has not been determinable.

**COPSYCHUS SAULARIS ERIMELAS**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Copsychus saularis prosthoppellus*, from southeastern China, but smaller, with decidedly more black on the fourth rectrix (from the outermost), and the under

<sup>1</sup> Approximate measurement; tip of maxilla somewhat damaged.

wing-coverts somewhat mixed with black; female with upper parts and throat paler and duller, and the buff of sides and flanks lighter.

*Type*.—Adult male, No. 95306, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Kankarit, Hound-draw Branch, Tenasserim, June 27, 1879, C. T. Bingham.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 94 mm.; tail, 84; exposed culmen, 17; tarsus, 30; middle toe without claw, 17.5.

**COPSYCHUS SAULARIS HALIBLECTUS**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Copsychus saularis erimelas*, of northern Tenasserim, but somewhat larger, and with the fourth rectrix entirely black; female with upper parts darker, brighter, less grayish (more metallic bluish); and throat paler.

*Type*.—Adult female, No. 173179, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Domel Island, Mergui Archipelago, February 27, 1900; Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 93.5 mm.; tail, 83; exposed culmen, 17.8; tarsus, 28.5; middle toe without claw, 18.5.

This race appears to be confined to the Mergui Archipelago.

**COPSYCHUS SAULARIS EPHALUS**, nom. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Resembling *Copsychus saularis andamanensis*, from the Malay Peninsula, but larger, with a smaller bill; and with more black on the lining of the wing.

*Type*.—Adult male, No. 180979, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Tarussan Bay, Northwestern Sumatra, January 15, 1905; Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 105 mm.; tail, 91; exposed culmen, 20; tarsus, 31; middle toe without claw, 19.

This is the bird that is commonly called *Copsychus saularis musicus* (Raffles).<sup>1</sup> The basis of this name is merely a renaming of *Gracula saularis* Linnaeus, of India, as is evident from the opening sentences of Raffles' account of this bird:

"Lanius musicus.

"The Dial Bird, or *Turdus Mindanensis* of Gmelin and *Gracula saularis* of Linnaeus; now with more propriety placed under *Lanius*.

"It is one of the few singing-birds of India, and its note is pleasing."

The name *Turdus musicus* Raffles is thus a pure synonym of *Gracula saularis* Linnaeus, and the Sumatran race of the species requires a new name, which we have accordingly provided above.

<sup>1</sup>*Lanius musicus* Raffles, Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., XIII, pt. 2, 1822, after October, p. 307.

**COPSYCHUS SAULARIS NESIARCHUS**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Copsychus saularis ephalus*, from northwestern Sumatra, but somewhat smaller, and with white area on third and fourth rectrices (from outermost) much more extensive.

*Type*.—Adult male, No. 180075, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Lafau, Nias Island, western Sumatra, March 22, 1903; Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 103 mm.; tail, 91; exposed culmen, 20; tarsus, 31.5; middle toe without claw, 19.5.

This new race differs from *Copsychus saularis zacnecus* of the neighboring island of Simalur in having more white on the terminal portion of the fourth rectrix, and, in the male, no buff on the crissum.

**COPSYCHUS SAULARIS NESIOTES**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Copsychus saularis ephalus*, from Sumatra, but wing and tail shorter (not bill); third rectrix with less white and the fourth with none.

*Type*.—Adult male, No. 180537, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Tanjong Be-daan, Banka Island, southeastern Sumatra, June 4, 1904; Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 100 mm.; tail, 90; exposed culmen, 19.5; tarsus, 31.5; middle toe without claw, 18.5.

**KITTACINCLA MELANURA PAGENSIS**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Kittacincla melanura opisthochra*, from Pulo Lasia, Barussan Islands, western Sumatra, but smaller. Male with rufous posterior lower parts much paler. (No female examined.)

*Description*.—Type, male, No. 180079, U. S. Nat. Mus.; North Pagi Island, western Sumatra, January 9, 1903; Dr. W. L. Abbott. Upper parts metallic bluish black, except the rump, which is white; tail brownish black; wings dull black, some of the unmolted feathers dull brown, secondary wing-coverts edged with the color of the back; sides of head and of neck, together with the chin, throat, and jugulum, like the back; posterior lower parts between cinnamon rufous and tawny, paler on the middle of the abdomen; lining of wing ochraceous buff, edges of wing blackish.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 83 mm.; tail, 103; exposed culmen, 15; height of bill at base, 5.5; tarsus, 25.5; middle toe without claw, 15.5.

This race is distinguishable from *Kittacincla melanura hypoliza*, of Simalur Island, and *Kittacincla melanura melanura*, of Nias Island, by its smaller size and much paler rufous of the posterior lower parts. It is apparently confined to the Pagi Islands.

The present species has an interesting geographical distribution, since all the subspecies occur, so far as now known, only on islands of the Barussan chain, off the western coast of Sumatra, and on islands in the Java Sea. These races are as follows:

1. *Kittacincla melanura melanura* Salvadori. Nias Island, Barussan Islands.
2. *Kittacincla melanura hypoliza* Oberholser. Simalur Island, Barussan Islands.
3. *Kittacincla melanura opisthochra* Oberholser. Lasia and Babi Islands, Barussan Islands.
4. *Kittacincla melanura pagensis* Oberholser. Pagi Islands, Barussan Islands.
5. *Kittacincla melanura nigricauda* Vorderman. Kangean Islands and Pulo Mata Siri, in the Java Sea.

**KITTACINCLA MALABARICA PELLOGYNA, subsp. nov.**

*Subspecific characters.*—Similar to *Kittacincla malabarica malabarica* of India, but female darker. Resembling *Kittacincla malabarica interposita*,<sup>1</sup> but larger, especially the wing and bill; and with more white on the tail.

*Description.*—Type, adult female, No. 173176, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Bok Pyim, Tenasserim, February 14, 1900; Dr. W. L. Abbott. Upper parts blackish plumbeous, except the rump and upper tail-coverts, which are white; tail black, slightly brownish, the tips of the feathers white; wings rather dark fuscous black, the edges of the primaries and secondaries, with the greater and middle coverts, olive brown, the lesser coverts between slate gray and dark plumbeous; chin between fuscous and hair brown; sides of the head and of neck, together with throat and jugulum, fuscous black, overlaid somewhat with blackish plumbeous; breast, sides, and flanks, between cinnamon rufous and tawny, shading to nearly pure white on the middle of the abdomen; crissum between cinnamon buff and clay color; thighs dull white; outer under wing-coverts blackish, margined with neutral gray and whitish; the remaining portion of lining of wing tinged on the axillars and on the innermost coverts with buff.

*Measurements of type.*—Wing, 86 mm.; tail, 107.5; exposed culmen, 13.5; height of bill at base, 5; tarsus, 24.5; middle toe without claw, 16.

<sup>1</sup> *Kittacincla malabarica interposita* Robinson and Klöss, Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus., X, No. 4, December, 1922, p. 262 (Daban, South Annam).

This form of the species occupies at least the northern and middle portions of the Malay Peninsula. Examples from Johore are intermediate between *Kittacincla malabarica pellogyna* and the Sumatra race described below, but are referable to the former. As in many of the subspecies of *Kittacincla malabarica*, the racial characters are more evident in the female than in the male.

**KITTACINCLA MALABARICA LAMPROGYNNA**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Kittacincla malabarica pellogyna*, from the Malay Peninsula, but female with upper parts lighter, more grayish; the throat, jugulum, breast, and sides of body, lighter.

*Type*.—Adult female, No. 173173, U. S. Nat. Mus.; St. Luke Island, Mergui Archipelago, January 21, 1900; Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 87 mm.; tail, 117.5; exposed culmen, 13; height of bill at base, 5; tarsus, 25; middle toe without claw, 16.

Although apparently confined to the Mergui Archipelago, this race is in color somewhat intermediate between *Kittacincla malabarica malabarica*, of India, and *Kittacincla malabarica pellogyna*, of the Malay Peninsula. From the former it differs in the darker colors of the female.

**KITTACINCLA MALABARICA MALLOPERCNA**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Allied to *Kittacincla malabarica pellogyna*, of the Malay Peninsula, but female with upper parts darker, and with more metallic sheen; breast and sides more deeply rufescent. Male very much like the same sex of *Kittacincla malabarica pellogyna*, except that the rufous of lower parts is somewhat darker.

*Type*.—Adult female, No. 178969, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Sing Kep Island, Berhala Strait, off southeastern Sumatra, May 18, 1901; Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 85 mm.; tail, 99; exposed culmen, 15; height of bill at base, 6; tarsus, 24; middle toe without claw, 16.5.

This is apparently the form of *Kittacincla malabarica* that inhabits the mainland of Sumatra as well as the islands along its eastern side, with the exception of Banka and Billeton.

**KITTACINCLA MALABARICA ABBOTTI**,<sup>1</sup> subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Kittacincla malabarica mallopercna*, but posterior lower parts much darker and more uniformly rufous.

<sup>1</sup> Named for Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Type*.—Adult female, No. 180538, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Tanjong Bedaan, Banka Island, southeastern Sumatra, June 7, 1904, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 86 mm.; tail, 104; exposed culmen, 15; height of bill at base, 6; tarsus, 24; middle toe without claw, 15.5.

**KITTACINCLA MALABARICA ZAPHOTINA**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Kittacincla malabarica abbotti*, from the island of Banka, but female with throat and upper parts, including wings and tail, much darker more blackish (less slaty); rufous of posterior lower surface somewhat darker and duller.

*Type*.—Adult female, No. 178140, U. S. Nat. Mus.; central Borneo, 1899; Dr. A. W. Nieuwenhuis.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 95.5 mm.; tail, 109; exposed culmen, 16; height of bill at base, 6.5; tarsus, 26.5; middle toe without claw, 17.

This race occupies the central and southwestern portion of Borneo. From *Kittacincla malabarica suavis*, of southeastern Borneo, its female differs in having the upper parts and throat lighter, with less metallic sheen, and the rufous of lower surface somewhat lighter.

**SYLVIIDAE**

**ORTHOTOMUS ATROGULARIS EUMELAS**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Orthotomus atrogularis atrogularis*, from the Malay Peninsula, but with upper parts darker and throat more solidly black.

*Description*.—Type, adult male, No. 180597, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Tanjong Bedaan, Banka Island, southeastern Sumatra, June 3, 1904; Dr. W. L. Abbott. Pileum dark cinnamon rufous, the remaining upper parts warbler green; tail buffy olive, the feathers edged with pyrite yellow, their tips sulphine yellow; wings fuscous, edged with warbler green; upper half of the sides of the head, together with the lores, dark cinnamon rufous; auriculars, chin, and upper throat, dull white, a little mixed with blackish; sides of neck warbler green; the rest of the throat, together with the jugulum, black; upper breast neutral gray, streaked and mixed with white; crissum, citrine yellow; remainder of lower parts white, but the sides and flanks washed with greenish yellow; thighs between ochraceous tawny and buckthorn brown; edges of wing and lining of wing, anteriorly amber yellow, posteriorly white, a little washed with amber yellow.



*Measurements of type.*—Wing, 43 mm.; tail, 43; exposed culmen, 13; height of bill at base, 3; tarsus, 20; middle toe without claw, 9.5.

No specimens of this species from the island of Sumatra have been examined, but this is probably the subspecies occurring there.

## PYCNONOTIDAE

### AEGITHINA TIPHIA MICROMELAENA, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters.*—Similar to *Aegithina tiphia tiphia*, from Bengal, India, but with black of upper surface confined to pileum and cervix; remainder of upper parts darker; and size somewhat smaller.

*Description.*—Type, adult male, No. 180548, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Tanjong Tedong, Banka Island, June 5, 1904; Dr. W. L. Abbott. Pileum, cervix, and scapulars (excepting the white inner tuft), glossy, slightly bluish black; back olive green; upper tail-coverts bluish black; tail black with a slightly bluish sheen; primaries and secondaries, fuscous black, their inner margins basally white, the outer webs black on their basal portion, the median area somewhat narrowly edged with yellowish white; rest of the wing black with a slight bluish sheen, but the middle and greater coverts broadly tipped with white, and the tertials edged externally with yellowish white and warbler green, internally with white; lores, a narrow superciliary stripe to the middle of the eye, all the anterior lower parts to the breast, inclusive, together with the sides of the head and of neck up to the middle of the eye, rich gamboge yellow; rest of lower parts lemon yellow, but the flank tufts white, the sides tinged and mixed with olive green; posterior lower part of thighs washed with yellow; rest of thighs dull yellow; lining of wing white, but the inner edge light lemon yellow.

*Measurements of type.*—Wing, 61.5 mm.; tail, 47.5; exposed culmen, 16.5; tarsus, 19; middle toe without claw, 11.

So far as now determinable, this new race is confined to the island of Banka, off the eastern end of Sumatra.

### AEGITHINA TIPHIA DAMICRA, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters.*—Resembling *Aegithina tiphia micromelacna*, from the island of Banka, but smaller; pileum and cervix, olive green like the back, instead of black; and yellow lower parts duller, more tinged with greenish.

*Type.*—Adult male, No. 178144, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Smitau, Kapuas River, southwestern Borneo, December 14, 1893; J. Büttikofer.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 57 mm.; tail, 41.5; exposed culmen, 13.8; tarsus, 17.5; middle toe without claw, 10.

This bird is, in some respects, most closely allied to *Aegithina tiphia viridis* of Northern Borneo, but it differs from that race in its smaller size, lighter upper parts, greenish forehead, and duller, more greenish lower surface.

**AEGITHINA TIPHIA ZOPHONOTA**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Aegithina tiphia damicra*, of southwestern Borneo, but upper parts decidedly paler.

*Type*.—Adult male, No. 183008, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Taham, central eastern Borneo, April 13, 1914; H. C. Raven.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 58 mm.; tail, 42.5; exposed culmen, 13.8; tarsus, 17; middle toe without claw, 10.

From *Aegithina tiphia viridis*, of northern Borneo, this form may be readily distinguished by its smaller size, olive green forehead, and duller, more greenish lower parts.

With the above proposed additions, the recognizable subspecies of *Aegithina tiphia* are as follows:

1. *Aegithina tiphia tiphia* (Linnaeus). Northern India, Burma, the Malay Peninsula, and Sumatra.
2. *Aegithina tiphia multicolor* (Gmelin).<sup>1</sup> Ceylon, southern and central India.
3. *Aegithina tiphia horizopectera* Oberholser. Nias Island in the Barussan Islands, off western Sumatra.
4. *Aegithina tiphia micromelana* Oberholser. Banka Island, off eastern Sumatra.
5. *Aegithina tiphia damicra* Oberholser. Southwestern Borneo.
6. *Aegithina tiphia zophonota* Oberholser. Eastern Borneo.
7. *Aegithina tiphia viridis* (Bonaparte). Northwestern Borneo.
8. *Aegithina tiphia acquanimis* Bangs. Palawan Island and Dumaran Island, in the Philippine Islands.
9. *Aegithina tiphia scapularis* (Horsfield). Java.

**MUSCICAPIDAE**

**CULICICAPA CEYLONENSIS CALOCHRYSEA**, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Culicicapa ceylonensis ceylonensis*, from India, but with upper parts paler more golden (less greenish), especially the edgings of the tail; throat paler; posterior lower surface brighter; and the crissum somewhat more golden.

<sup>1</sup>*Fringilla multicolor* Gmelin, Syst. Nat. I, ii, 1789 (before April 20), p. 924 ("insula Zeylon"). This name has 40 pages anteriority over *Motacilla zeylonica* Gmelin; is of identical application; and therefore seems to be the proper name for this race.

*Description.*—Type, adult male, No. 95332, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Quaymos, Choung, Thoungyin River, Tenasserim, February 2, 1880; C. T. Bingham, original number, 295. Pileum deep mouse gray; upper parts, including the edges of the wing-coverts, yellowish warbler green, the rump and upper tail-coverts being most yellowish; tail between hair brown and fuscous, the feathers edged with yellowish, between aniline yellow and sulphine yellow; wings fuscous, the edges of the primaries, secondaries, and tertials between sulphine yellow and lemon chrome; side of the head and of neck like the cervix; chin and throat, light mouse gray, but the middle of throat and of jugulum pale mouse gray; posterior lower parts rich lemon chrome, a little dull, the sides of the body washed with olivaceous; lining of wings between penard yellow and picric yellow.

*Measurements of type.*—Wing, 61.5 mm.; tail, 55.5; exposed culmen, 7; tarsus, 13; middle toe without claw, 7.5.

This subspecies ranges from middle Tenasserim north apparently to Nepal. How far east or west it extends we are not, with our present material, able to determine.

#### CULICICAPA CEYLONENSIS ANTIOXANTHA, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters.*—Similar to *Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea*, from northern Tenasserim, but darker above, including the pileum; back usually less yellowish; and throat darker.

*Type.*—Adult male, No. 169979, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Khaw Sai Dow, Trang, Lower (Peninsular) Siam, February 8, 1899; Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Measurements of type.*—Wing, 60 mm.; tail, 48.5; exposed culmen, 8.5; tarsus, 10.3; middle toe without claw, 7.

This race occupies probably all the southern portion of the Malay Peninsula. Birds from southern Tenasserim seem also referable here, though verging toward *Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea*.

#### CULICICAPA CEYLONENSIS PELLOPIRA, subsp. nov.

*Subspecific characters.*—Resembling *Culicicapa ceylonensis anti-oxantha*, from the Malay Peninsula, but with the yellowish edgings of tail darker, more olivaceous; posterior lower parts more richly golden yellow; sides and flanks more strongly tinged with olive.

*Type.*—Adult male, No. 220127, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Tjibodas, Mt. Gedé, 4,500 feet altitude, Java, September 3, 1909; William Palmer.

*Measurements of type.*—Wing, 61 mm.; tail, 51.5; exposed culmen, 8.5; tarsus, 12.3; middle toe without claw, 7.8.